

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-14 remain in this application.

Claims 5 and 12 were indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

New claims have been added. New independent claims 16-17 comprise the subject matter of original claims 1 and 4 and allowed claim 12, and new independent claim 18 comprises the subject matter of original claims 1 and allowable claim 5. Allowance of these claims is solicited.

Claims 1-14 were rejected as indefinite.

The claims have been amended responsive to the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claims 1, 4, 6-11, and 13 were rejected as obvious over McLOAD 3,414,874 in view of RUSSELL 5,835,450.

Claim 2 was rejected in further view of BARKER 2002/0064088.

Claims 3 and 14 were rejected in further view of DRAGSUND 4,831,599.

Original claim 1 recited that the plurality of streamers extending parallel to the vessel's direction of travel have a lengthwise extent that is 25% to 400% of the spacing between the steamers, and now further recites with a minimum

lengthwise extent of 25 cm and a maximum lengthwise extent of 100 meters.

On page 6 of the Official Action, it was asserted that "McLOAD discloses that the lengthwise extent is 80% of the spacing (Fig. 3)." This is incorrect. Figure 3 clearly shows that the length of the streamers 31 is approximately 650% of the spacing. The streamers of McLOAD have active 33, 38 and inactive 35 portions. Some of the active ones serve as transmitters and others as receivers, see column 5, lines 41.

RUSSELL has in each streamer both a plurality of sensors and a transmitter for signals to be received by the sensors.

Further as to the seismic source(s) being located on one or both of the deflectors (e.g., claim 3), this feature of the invention is believed non-obvious.

There is no proper motivation to combine McLOAD, RUSSEL and DRAGSUND. This combination is merely made in hindsight with the benefit of the present application's teachings.

The claim does not recite a seismic source in the streamers, but instead requires the seismic source (transmitter) be located on (externally) of the streamers. See Figures 1-2, element 1'.

This is not taught by the prior art.

Accordingly, both claims 1 and 3 (as well as the related claims) are believed non-obvious.

**COPY FOR DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT PURPOSES**

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

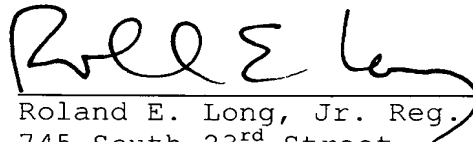
Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge the fee of \$100 for the extra independent claim and \$25 for the extra claim of any type added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr. Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/lk

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

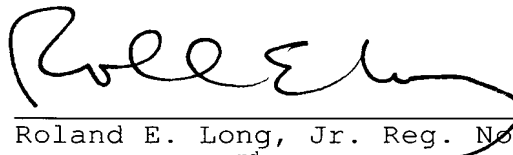
Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge the fee of \$100 for the extra independent claim and \$25 for the extra claim of any type added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr. Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REL/lk